

The historic value of this system of cooperative watering is well known in northern New Mexico. In fact, when the acequia associations and I agreed to improve this system, our suggestions were resisted by State of New Mexico agencies on the grounds that concrete lining, for example, would alter the historic value of these acequias.

Of course, the state agency did not want to help with the expensive and frequent repairs and annual maintenance. They wanted the subsistence farmers to do this themselves, at their own expense.

Working with Las Nueve Acequias Steering Committee, and their excellent Chairman Wilfred Gutierrez, we are now celebrating a quarter century of overcoming bureaucratic barriers and making real improvements to this vast system of acequias. In the past twenty five years, I have been able to convince my colleagues in the Senate of the value of acequias to the economy and culture of northern New Mexico.

The Congress has been accepting of my proposals. At my urging, the Congress authorized a special program to make the needed physical improvements to acequias, while maintaining the traditional cooperative relationships. The traditional leader of an acequia is the "mayordomo." Mike Martinez, the current mayordomo of the Chicos ditch in Velarde was on hand to christen the latest section of improvements in late April. This event was a milestone that marks a quarter century of a vital partnership with the federal government to keep these acequias operable for the next century.

We are still a couple of years away from completing \$30 million worth of improvements in the Velarde area of New Mexico. Miles of acequias have been greatly improved in the past quarter century. I have been fortunate to have the support of my colleagues for many appropriations over all these years. In gratitude for the consistent support of my colleagues for funding these acequia projects, I would like them to see the attached newspaper article from the Rio Grande Sun, May 6, 1999, by Cynthia Miller, entitled, "After 25 Years, Acequia Project Finally Finished". This article gives us important insights into the value of the acequias to thousands of northern New Mexicans. After a quarter century of improvements, the acequia users and associations can continue to rely on this essential source of water for their lifestyles, and their livelihood.

I ask that this article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Rio Grande Sun, May 6, 1999]

AFTER 25 YEARS, ACEQUIA PROJECT FINALLY FINISHED

(By Cynthia Miller)

When the Chicos ditch in Velarde was opened April 28 during a ceremony to celebrate the completion of 3000 feet of improvement work, Las Nueve Acequias Steering Committee Chairman Wilfred Gutierrez said he witnessed not only the one ditch's

progress that day, but also the past 25 years of progress on a \$20 million federal project covering nine ditches in the area.

The 3000 feet of concrete piping from a Rio Grande dam up the Chicos marks one of the last stages of the project, Gutierrez said, estimating \$15 million in federal funds has been spent on the project so far.

He said the ditch was christened by acequia mayordomo Mike Martinez and several federal Bureau of Reclamation officials who gathered April 28 to watch as water was released from the newly lined dam for the first time this spring.

The pricey nine-ditch project was initiated in the 1970s, Gutierrez said, when residents of Velarde and surrounding communities rebelled against a \$28 million federal plan to build a canal from the Rio Grande to the Santa Cruz River.

The group successfully stopped the canal from going in and the community's irrigation water supply from going out, he said, and then members got some ideas of their own. "People started asking me why couldn't we use some of that money to rehabilitate our acequias?"

Gutierrez said the farmers in the area were always putting time, money and labor into rebuilding dams and ditches which were washed away by heavy river flows, and fixing spots where muskrats, crawfish and other wildlife dug holes.

Rather than constantly rebuild the acequias just to see them destroyed again, the community members wanted to improve the ditches in a way that would be more permanent and would require less strenuous maintenance efforts, he said.

In 1976 officers from the nine acequias organized into the Las Nueve Acequias Steering Committee and asked Gutierrez to serve as chairman, he said. The group then sought U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici's help in securing Bureau of Reclamation funds for their ditch improvement projects.

Following a Bureau of Reclamation feasibility study around 1980, he said, it was determined that the work would cost about \$20 million. Funds began to come in and plans were made to get started.

The first and most crucial phase was to build new dams, Gutierrez said. "Before that, it was just the old ones that the Spanish and the Indians built. Literally, we were just washing money down the river."

With each heavy rain, he said, the dams just washed away and had to be rebuilt.

Seven new permanent dams were built by Las Nueve Acequias and the Bureau of Reclamation to replace the nine previous dams, he said, and then work was started on lining ditches and creating other structures.

He explained the group is set up so that each ditch has its own officers to make decisions on what work it wants done.

"What's nice about this project is that it's up to the people in the acequias to determine what they want. They have to make the request," he said, adding he has served from the start as an at-large representative of the steering committee.

He represents no individual acequia, he said, and works instead for the good of all nine.

Part of his work has included overcoming obstacles standing in the way of ditch improvements, such as the state Environment Department and the state Game and Fish Department's objections to ditch work, Gutierrez said.

The departments wanted the ditches to remain in their more natural states.

"They wanted the acequias to exist like before, but they didn't realize how expensive it was. And they didn't want to help fix them," he said. "They wanted the acequia groups to be burdened with the expense of keeping the acequias as they had existed."

Gutierrez said he was glad to see the project is nearing its completion.

"When we started it, we thought we could finish it in eight years," he said, "and it's taken 25. . . . We'd like to finish this project in the next two years."

Gutierrez said Las Nueve Acequias has plans to do more work on its ditches this fall.●

AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION AWARD WINNER

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the week of May 9, 1999 is National Hospital Week, when communities across the country celebrate the people that make hospitals the special places they are. This year's theme sums it up nicely: "People Care, Miracles Happen." It recognizes the health care workers, volunteers and other health professionals who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, curing and caring for their neighbors who need them.

An example of this dedication is the Sexual Assault Response of Antelope Valley Hospital in Lancaster, California. The program won the American Hospital Association's prestigious Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence for 1999, which highlights special contributions of hospital volunteers.

The Sexual Assault Response Service is a team of hospital volunteers that offers specialized assistance to sexual assault victims, families, hospital personnel and law enforcement agencies. To meet the program's high standards, volunteers get more than 60 hours of training.

Responding to a call from any area hospital emergency department, they provide support to victims while helping to solicit histories, preparing evidence collection kits, assisting with medical and legal examinations, and overseeing the completion of state forms. Volunteers work with the district attorney's office throughout the court process and offer one-on-one counseling, a referral service, a lending library and community education.

Mr. President, I want to congratulate Antelope Valley Hospital for this award-winning effort and for their generous contributions to their community.●

IN RECOGNITION OF CFIDS AWARENESS DAY

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association of Lehigh Valley in fighting Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS), or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS).

Through a tireless effort, the CFS Association of Lehigh Valley is committed to finding a cure for CFIDS, increasing public awareness and providing support for victims of this disease. Public education is an integral part of the association's mission, and the Lehigh Valley organization works to raise awareness through the International CFIDS Awareness Day, which

is held on May 12 each year. In addition, the Lehigh Valley organization is actively involved in CFS-related research and regularly participates in seminars to train health care professionals. It is also important to note that the CFS Association of Lehigh Valley received the CFIDS Support Network Action Award in 1995 and 1996 for their public advocacy initiatives.

Although some progress has been made in the study of CFIDS, this condition is largely still a mystery. With no known cause or cure for the disease, victims experience a variety of symptoms including extreme fatigue, fever, muscle and joint pain, cognitive and neurological problems, tender lymph nodes, nausea and vertigo. The Centers for Disease Control has given CFIDS "Priority 1" status in the new infectious disease category which also includes cholera, malaria, hepatitis C and tuberculosis. The Lehigh Valley organization will persistently continue its research and education campaigns until this disease is obliterated.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the Lehigh Valley organization and in supporting the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, on May 12, 1999 the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) Association of Lehigh Valley joined the Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS) Association of America, the largest organization dedicated to conquering CFIDS, in observing International Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Awareness Day; and

Whereas, CFIDS is a complicated disease which is characterized by neurological, rheumatological and immunological problems, incapacitating fatigue, as well as a number of other symptoms that can persist for months or years and can be severely debilitating; and

Whereas, estimates suggest that hundreds of thousands of American adults already have CFIDS; and

Whereas, the medical community, as well as the public should receive more information and develop a greater awareness of the effects of CFIDS. While much has been done at the national, state and local level, more must be done to support patients and their families; and

Whereas, research has been enhanced by the efforts of the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health and other private institutions, the CFS Association of Lehigh Valley recognizes that there is still much more to be done to encourage further research so that the mission of conquering CFIDS and related disorders can be achieved;

Therefore, the United States Senate commends the efforts of the CFS Association of Lehigh Valley, as well as those battling the disease and applauds the designation of May 12, 1999 as CFIDS Awareness Day.●

COLORADO BOYS RANCH

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to draw attention to an anniversary. Forty years ago yesterday, the Colorado Boys Ranch Foundation was incorporated. Yesterday they celebrated forty years as a leader in the field of youth work.

The Colorado Boys Ranch places emphasis upon youth, especially those

who are vulnerable to or troubled by the negative influences and pressures of our society. Their motto is "It's easier to build a boy than mend a man."

Thirty eight years ago, my predecessor, Senator John Carroll of Colorado, spoke on this floor on the merits of the then still new Ranch, and I am here to echo the spirit of his comments.

Colorado Boys Ranch was created through volunteer labor and public and private contributions. This ranch is located just north of La Junta, Colorado. In 1959 the La Junta Chamber of Commerce and the Colorado County Judge's Association had a vision to build a treatment center for wayward youth coming from broken and unloving homes. The City of La Junta had received from the United States Government an abandoned WWII air field, and they gave the Foundation the civilian housing area from that field. Businesses and volunteers immediately came forth with offers to help remodel this facility to accommodate plans for the Ranch.

Of the committee of ten that started the ball rolling, two are still alive. Of the four judges that were involved personally, only one remains. Their volunteerism inspired others over the past forty years, and the overall efforts have been great and still continue strong to help the Ranch in its great efforts.

Over the past forty years, 4,000 plus youth have been treated at Colorado Boys Ranch and over 85% have continued on to be productive citizens. The Ranch is accredited with commendation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and is certified and licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Mental Health and Education.

The Colorado Boys Ranch program is based upon the following beliefs: That preserving families and family ties takes continual effort and a spirit of renewal. That youth require essential life experiences and skills to maximize their growth and development. That something special happens when the lives of youth and animals connect. And, that CARING BRINGS RESULTS.

Recently, the Ranch received the Samaritan Institute Award for Ethics. This prestigious award is presented annually to a non-profit organization that best illustrates the importance of ethical values through its chartered work and its partnership with the business community.

I commend the goals of the ranch, and its purpose as a leader in the field of working with vulnerable youth and helping them find their role in modern society. I invite you to visit the Colorado Boys Ranch should you ever be in the state—over its forty year history, it has served youth from over twenty states across our nation.

Mr. President, the fortieth anniversary of the Colorado Boys Ranch Founda-

tion would be special any day that it happened to fall upon, but today it is especially notable. We debate today on youth violence and youth crime, and ways to curb that horrible scourge. The Ranch has found a solution, a solution that will not perhaps work across the whole nation, but is certainly working for those it serves.

Following also in the path of Senator Carroll, I ask that an article from the Denver Post on the Ranch and its good works be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows.

[From the Denver Post, Jan. 23, 1999]

BOYS RANCH HELPS TROUBLED YOUTH

(By Keith Coffman)

Those seeking testimonials about how the horsemanship program helps troubled youth at the Colorado Boys Ranch don't need to look far. Current ranch residents will gladly oblige, thank you very much.

"Before I came here, I was living on the street, taking drugs and didn't care about anything, even myself," said George, a 17-year-old who's been at the ranch for six months. "Now I've learned responsibility by taking care of my horse and focusing on one objective at a time."

George is one of 60 youth at the ranch, a residential treatment center for troubled boys ages 12 to 18. He was facing jail time for a variety of petty crimes in Nevada. But after six months in Colorado, he now thanks his probation officer for giving him a second chance by suggesting the ranch.

"I still show a little stubbornness, but I've gotten better at listening to people," he said.

Located on 320 acres near La Junta in southeastern Colorado, the private, non-profit Colorado Boys Ranch offers therapy, education and pre-vocational training to its residents, many of whom are referred by courts and social service agencies nationwide.

A handful of residents and staff participated in several activities at this year's National Western Stock Show and Rodeo as part of the ranch's animal-assisted therapy program.

Boys in the program trained three roping, or heading, horses for entries by Colorado Boys Ranch ranch hands in the pre-circuit team roping event earlier in the show. They also showed a 4-year-old donated quarter horse in the halter competition.

Although insurance regulations prohibit residents from competing in rodeo and other events, the boys took pride in seeing their contributions to a major event like the National Western, said Jim Kerr, director of the horsemanship program for the Boys Ranch.

"They also get a chance to see our staff and other professionals as positive role models, which I think is very important," Kerr said.

But the horsemanship program isn't just about playing cowboy, Kerr said. The ranch teaches its charges all facets of horsemanship, from riding to the less-glamorous task of cleaning corrals. Classroom instruction also is incorporated into real world experience on the ranch.

For instance, Kerr said, students apply their math skills to calculate correct feed amounts for the animals they tend, or watch a mare give birth to a foal to get a valuable biology lesson. He said therapists also have found that many boys are more forthcoming in counseling sessions done during a leisurely horseback ride at the ranch, than those held in more formal office settings.

For many of the youth, relating to animals often helps them relate to people and prepare them for mainstream society, Kerr said.